



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
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**MEMBER**  
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FINANCE REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE

**ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP**

Testimony of Rep. Mary Mushinsky (85<sup>th</sup>) in Support of RHB 6854, An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee Concerning the Reporting of Certain Data by Managed Care Companies and Health Insurance Companies to the Insurance Department

Before the Program Review and Investigations Committee

February 27, 2015

Sen. Fonfara, Rep. Carpino and members of the committee:

As previous co-chair of the PRI Committee, I was the sponsor of a similar bill last year. Thank you for raising it again. The bill was a recommendation of PRI's report to assist families with private insurance who were unable to obtain help for their adolescents and young adults with mental health and substance abuse disorders.

I was disappointed in the veto last year of the bill to track denials of care. The veto occurred because I made a last minute change in the bill to avoid late opposition by the insurance industry, which was dealing with a separate reporting requirement for the federal Affordable Care Act. I shifted the reporting requirement to Access Connecticut and called them without success to discuss the proposed change. Access Connecticut felt they could not handle the requirement and sought the veto. The parties, including the Health Care Advocate and Susan Halpin of Robinson and Cole (representing insurance companies) have agreed to meet with myself, Sen. Markley and Rep. Rob Sampson to set up an alternative reporting method.

In my district, Coalition for a Better Wallingford has been working to bring help to families who struggle with their child's addiction and mental health problems. Families and insurance regulators need to know which insurance companies are regularly issuing denials for mental health and substance abuse treatment so we can win better care for our adolescents. Treatment for these illnesses is beyond the ability of parents who are overwhelmed with caring for an ill adolescent. Please help these families and support RHB 6854.

